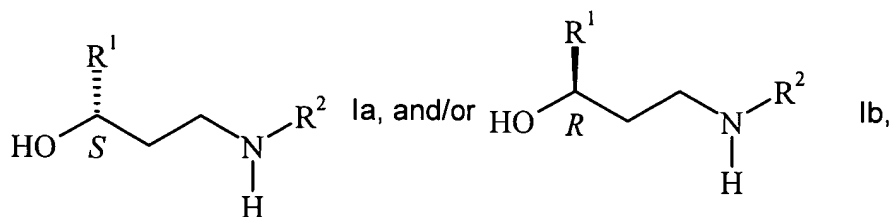


Amendments To The Claims

This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of salts salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of the formula:



wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl and phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C₁₋₄-alkyl or C₁₋₄-alkoxy groups, and wherein R² is C₁₋₄-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C₁₋₄-alkyl or C₁₋₄-alkoxy groups,

comprising asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of

a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of the formula:



wherein R¹ and R² are as defined above,

in the presence of a transition metal complex of a diphosphine ligand, ~~preferably of an aryl- or biaryl-diphosphine ligand.~~

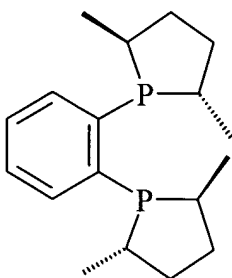
Claim 2 (Original): The process of claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C₁₋₁₈-alkanoic acids and optionally substituted mono- and bicyclic aromatic acids.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 or 2, wherein R¹ is 2-thienyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and R² is methyl or ethyl.

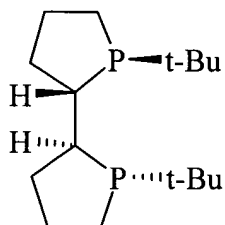
Claim 4 (Original): The process of claim 3, wherein the compound of formula II is selected from the group consisting of (S)-(-)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (S)-(-)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (R)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol and (R)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of rhodium, ruthenium or iridium, ~~preferably rhodium~~.

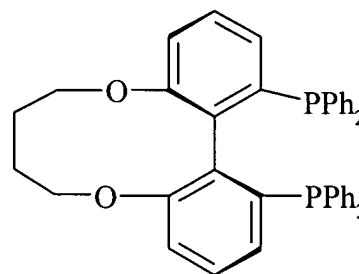
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~any of claims 1 to~~ claim 7, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



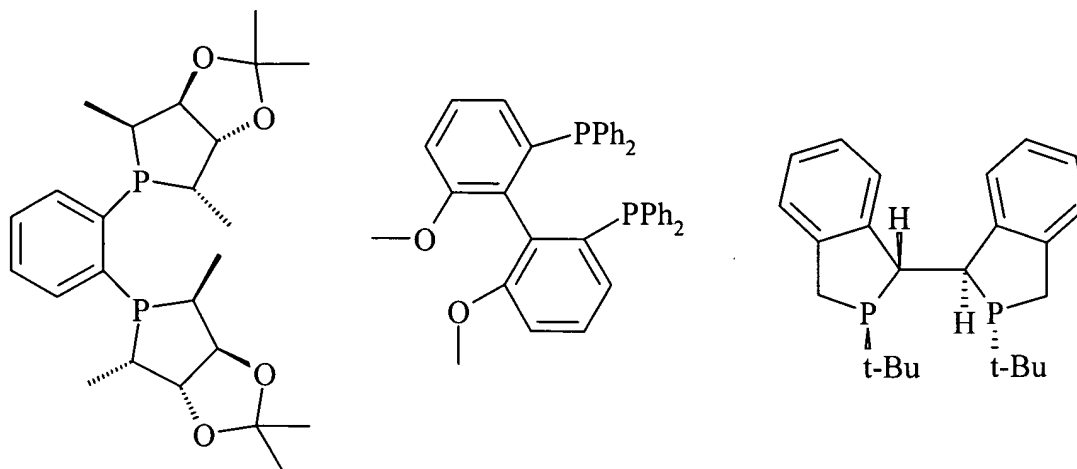
(S,S)-"Me-DuPhos",



(R,R,S,S)-"TangPhos",



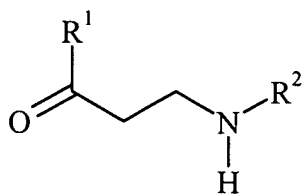
(S)-"C4-TunePhos",



(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos", (*S*) and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep", and (*R_P*,*R_P*,*S_C*,*S_C*)-DuanPhos".

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~any of claims 1 to claim 6~~, wherein the compound ~~compounds~~ of formulae Ia and/or ~~and~~ Ib are is obtained from its ~~their~~ corresponding salt ~~salts~~ with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the presence of an alkali ~~metal hydroxide~~ ~~alkali-~~ or an alkaline earth ~~alkali~~ hydroxide.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A salt ~~Salts~~ of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of the formula:

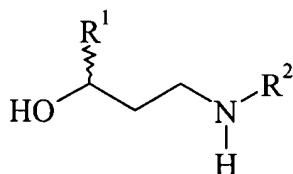


II,

wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl or 2-furanyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4} -alkyl or C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4} -alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4} -alkyl or C_{1-4} -alkoxy groups.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The salt salts of claim 8, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₁₈-alkanoic acids, (-)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-L-gulonic acid, (+)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-D-gulonic acid, 2-keto-L-gulonic acid, 2-keto-D-gulonic acid, L-aspartic acid, D-aspartic acid, DL-aspartic acid, benzoic acid, 3-methyl-benzoic acid, salicylic acid and ~~1~~, or 1-naphthalenecarboxylic acid and 2-naphthalenecarboxylic acid.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A salt ~~Salts~~ of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalkohol of the formula:



I,

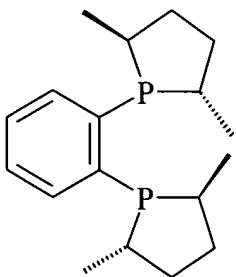
wherein R¹ is 2-furanyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C₁₋₄-alkyl or C₁₋₄-alkoxy groups, and wherein R² is C₁₋₄-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C₁₋₄-alkyl or C₁₋₄-alkoxy groups, with the exception of salts, wherein the acid is (-)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-L-gulonic acid or (+)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-D-gulonic acid.

Claim 11 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the transitional metal complex of a diphosphine ligand is a transitional metal complex of an aryldiphosphine ligand or a biaryldiphosphine ligand.

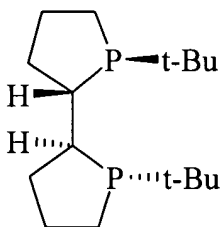
Claim 12 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein R¹ is 2-thienyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and R² is methyl or ethyl.

Claim 13 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the transition metal is rhodium.

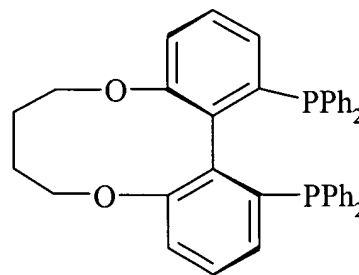
Claim 14 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



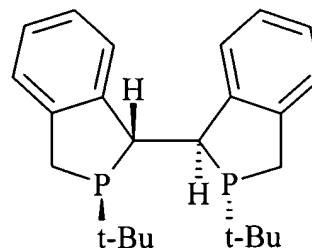
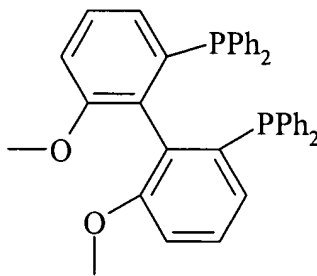
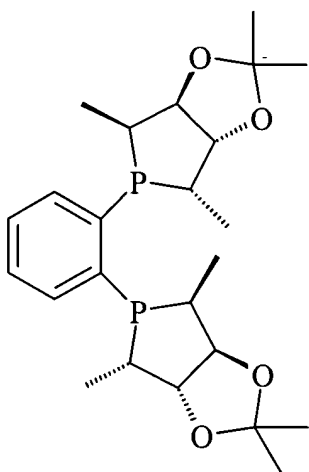
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",



(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",



(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos", (*S*) and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep", and "(*R_P*,*R_P*,*S_C*,*S_C*)-DuanPhos".

Claim 15 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formulae Ia and/or Ib is obtained from its corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth hydroxide.